

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 300 - SB 636

March 23, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires genetic testing to prove paternity before a court order establishing the father's support responsibilities can be entered. The Department of Human Services is responsible for paying for testing for persons who are financially unable to pay.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue – Not Significant

Increase State Expenditures – \$600,000

Increase Local Revenue – Not Significant

Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

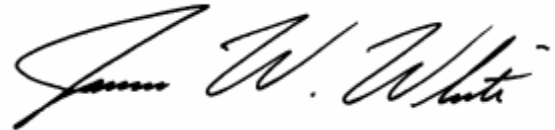
- The Department of Human Services (DHS) estimates 20,000 annual voluntary acknowledgements of paternity. The provisions of this bill will require all of the voluntary acknowledgements be accompanied with genetic testing prior to child support orders.
- Of the 20,000 acknowledgements, DHS estimates that at least one-half or 10,000 will be indigent and the Department will be required to fund the testing.
- Each paternity test is estimated to cost \$60 which will result in an increase in expenditures of \$600,000 (\$60 x 10,000).
- There will be a small increase in the time needed to settle child support cases in court system, which will result in additional state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and additional state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs. These expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.
- According to the Department of Health, the number of court ordered amendments to change the name of the father on the birth certificate based on the results of the DNA test would be nominal and will not result in a significant increase in expenditures to the Office of Vital Records.

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- DHS could be in jeopardy of losing \$41,395,600 in Title IV-D federal matching funds of the Child Support Enforcement program due to non-compliance with the voluntary paternity provisions of the state operating plans. Also, this could result in the state being assessed penalties against the state's block grant for the Families First program of approximately \$4,260,000 in the first year (two percent of the \$213,000,000 block grant).

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml